

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2050

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb. 14, 2006

RE: S.B. No. 2296
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2296
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NURSES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to make housekeeping
amendments to chapter 457-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding
licensure of nurses.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Board of Nursing. Your Committee received testimony in
opposition to the measure from the Hawaii Nurses Association.

Your Committee finds that the nursing shortage in Hawaii is
detrimental to public health and safety. In order to encourage
more nurses to work in Hawaii and ensure that a high level of
professional skill is maintained in the field, the nursing
licensing regulations need to be clarified and up-dated. Although
the Hawaii Nurses Association submitted testimony in opposition,
your Committee understands that upon further discussions between
the Board of Nursing and Hawaii Nurses Association, both groups
agree to the amendments proposed herein.

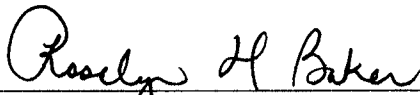
Your Committee has amended the effective date of this measure
to allow the Board of Nursing time to adopt rules in accordance
with chapters 91 and 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding
continuing education for nurses as alternative proof of continuing
competency.

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As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2296, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2296, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Housing.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



